

counted that contained eggs, besides many others partly built. This island was formerly — two or three years before — the favorite nesting resort of the pelicans, but at this time only three nests of this species were seen there, the colony having moved to Echo Island.— J. A. A.

Chapman on the Life-Histories of the Booby and Man o'-War Bird.¹—

The observations here recorded were made during April, 1907, at Cay Verde, in the Bahamas, while on a collecting trip to obtain specimens, accessories, photographs, and other data for a 'Habitat Group' of these birds in the American Museum of Natural History. Although only three days and nights were spent at the key, the visit was successful, and forms the basis of the present report on the bird life of Cay Verde. No land birds appear to be resident on the key, but it is visited by a number of migrants, of which nine species were noted, in addition to the same number of water birds. The presence of these birds, says Mr. Chapman, "indicates that Cay Verde would be an admirable station for the study of the migration of birds throughout this region. The small size of the Cay [half a mile long and a fourth of a mile wide] would permit the taking of fairly accurate daily censuses, while the distance from the nearest land makes it the only available stopping-place in a large area. It is to this isolation that the presence of large numbers of breeding birds on the cay may be attributed." The birds accustomed to nest there are three species of tern, the Tropic-Bird, and the two species that form the subject of the present paper. The number of Boobies (*Sula leucogastra*) breeding on the cay was estimated to be about 1500 pairs, with between 200 and 300 pairs of Man-o'-War Birds. At this time most of the nests contained young, ranging in age from newly hatched to half grown, while some nests still contained eggs and some of the young birds were already on the wing.

A detailed account of the habits, nest, eggs and young is given for each species, and also of the development of the plumage in the young birds. Inidentally some errors made by Audubon in his account of these species are noted. It is shown beyond reasonable doubt that the Booby found by Audubon nesting on his "Noddy Island" (Bird Key, Tortugas Islands) and supposed by him to be "*Sula fusca*" (*S. leucogastra*) was really *S. piscator*. The correction of this error gives *Sula piscator* for the first time the status of a former breeding bird in the United States, where it is now only of accidental occurrence. On the other hand, Audubon's record of the breeding of the Man-o'-War Bird in the Florida Keys is discredited. The six plates, based on photographs, illustrate the nesting habits, manner of flight, and development of the plumage in both species.— J. A. A.

¹ A Contribution to the Life-Histories of the Booby (*Sula leucogastra*) and Man-o'-War Bird (*Fregata aquila*). By Frank M. Chapman. Papers from the Tortugas Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Vol. II, 1908 (1909), pp. 139-151, pll. i-vi. [Separates not dated, but distributed late in February, 1909.]